

REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-14 and 36-49, all of which have been rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 36 have been amended.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 36, 39-40, 42, 44, 47 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 7,237,029 ("Hino"). Claims 2-3, 8, 37-38 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of U.S. 2004/0003051 ("Krz"). Claims 24 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of U.S. 6,363,434 ("Eytchison"). Claims 10 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of U.S. 6,580,149 ("Park"). Claims 13 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of U.S. 6,510,212 ("Ito"). Claims 11 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hino in view of U.S. 6,665,384 ("Daum").

In view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 36, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claim rejections are moot. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable over the cited art.

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, the Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. The Applicants expressly reserve the right, however, to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in an Examiner's Answer to an Appeal Brief).

Appln. No.: 10/672,648
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
June 26, 2008

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees, including the \$810 fee for the RCE and the \$1640 fee for the four month extension, or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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